

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08140 081549Z

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SUBJ: COMMENTS BY VENEZUELAN OAS AMBASSADOR ON SAN JOSE
CONFERENCE AND US.-CUBAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: VENEZUELAN OAS AMBASSADOR MACHIN HAS TOLD THE PRESS HERE
THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES MUST SEEK AN INTER-AMERICAN
TREATY ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY. HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT
SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US., WOULD SOON ESTABLISH
RELATIONS WITH CUBA. END SUMMARY.

1. EL UNIVERSAL AUGUST 6 REPORTED INTERVIEW IN CARACAS WITH
JOSE MARIA MACHIN, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS. MACHIN
DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE REVISIONS TO THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY
OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH HE MAINTAINED WERE HIGHLY
BENEFICIAL TO VENEZUELA. HE CLAIMED THAT VENEZUELA HAD ASSUMED
A "REVOLUTIONARY" APPROACH TO THESE REFORMS IN ORDER TO ADAPT
THE TREATY TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES AND SAID THAT VENEZUELA AND
OTHER COUNTRIES HAD "TRIUMPHED" IN ARTICLE 3 IN OVERCOMING
EFFORTS BY SOME DELEGATIONS TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN
INTRA-CONTINENTAL AND EXTRA-CONTINENTAL ATTACK.

2. MACHIN STATED THAT EVEN THOUGH THE U.S. AT SAN JOSE HAD MADE
IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT BIND ITSELF THROUGH A TREATY TO THE
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PAGE 02 CARACA 08140 081549Z

PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY, LATIN AMERICAN

COUNTRIES WOULD BE OBLIGED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE SUCH A TREATY. HE NOTED THAT IN DECEMBER THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE AN OAS CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. IN EXPLAINING THE SAN JOSE DISCUSSIONS ON CUBA, MACHIN SAID THAT THE FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION REFLECTED THE DESIRE OF MOST LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS TO HAVE CUBA "ENTER THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY WHICH THE COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT REPRESENT." HE PREDICTED THAT VERY SOON OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ECUADOR, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, AND EVEN BRAZIL AND THE US., WOULD ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA. "THERE IS NOT THE LEAST DOUBT," MACHIN REPORTEDLY SAID, "THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US. AND CUBA CONCERNING FORMS FOR ESTABLISHING BETTER RELATIONS." IN MACHIN'S VIEW, IF THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE CAN MOVE BEYOND THE COLD WAR INTO A PERIOD OF DETENTE, IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD MAINTAIN AN EQUAL POSITION IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH CUBA.
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